

Long-term Impact of COVID-19 Working Group: Initial Findings – Chat log

Chat

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: So what's everyone's conference craft of choice?

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: Charlie: Ordinarily knitting but this week it's just catching up on my job :(

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: No fun! I'm lucky enough to WFH for the conference, so I think I'm up to almost 50 origami swans!

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: that sounds awesome!

Lisa Russell -> All Participants: +1 Kate

Beth Downing -> All Participants: I am knitting to keep my focus on the sessions.

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: Beth I always love seeing your knitting! :)

Beth Downing -> All Participants: Kate Thanks. :)

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Did any libraries initiate withdrawing from FDLP during the pandemic period?

Barbara Darrow -> All Participants: Administration at Chicago Public Library

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Thank you!

Jaime Hays -> All Participants: Some libraries did start the process to leave the fdlp.

Lara Flint -> All Participants: The answer is yes, but...we'd have to pull some data together to get you actual numbers.

Kate Pitcher -> All Participants: We would have to look at the numbers but we can pull together the data

Barbara Darrow -> All Participants: They heard about FDLP would be going digital. They assume we could get rid of all print which is not true.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: I wonder how much of that was impacted by the wave of retirements.

Barbara Darrow -> All Participants: yes

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: I didn't get to my library until March, and that's when I started halting paper. My predecessor left in July 2020.

Renee Bosman -> All Participants: the pandemic backlog of Federal Registers and Congressional Records was one thing that contributed to our dropping print for e once Regionals were able to

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Can't stress enough how important it is to semi-frequently talk to directors/admin and remind them of the legal requirements of the program, just as a baseline.

Barbara Darrow -> All Participants: The problem for us is many people don't have their own computers. There are a limited number available for people to use to access the Federal information. Where are the extra computers going to come from? Also we need librarians trained to access the FDLP info online.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: They wipe that from their memory very quickly.

Deb Ahlers -> All Participants: The workload involved in processing tangible materials is concerning given the current labor market.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: @Barbara, I'm a broken record w/that question myself.

Kris Abery -> All Participants: Agree @Deb

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: + 1 Barbara!

Deb Ahlers -> All Participants: Even if you have funding for positions, the labor market is tight. The housing crisis impacts attracting new employees.

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: +1 Deb

Kris Abery -> All Participants: The work load in processing electronic resources will also have an impact on library staff

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: Housing costs are too high and we have lost too many qualified people including faculty because they cannot afford to live both here in Yuma and in Flagstaff, where the main campus for NAU resides.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: I would love to see that data re: opening/closing in relation to related state pandemic regulations.

Deb Ahlers -> All Participants: Our library staff has been stable but our university, in general, is having a hard time filling open positions. There are only so many staff to do the work.

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: I think many people are finding they can earn better salaries than work in libraries especially in support staff positions.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: It would help if pay reflected cost of living.

Kris Abery -> All Participants: Electronic requires a certain level of skill to import into the catalog, create libguides etc. No one has addressed how to even discard/weed electronic resources

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: They should also start posting salary ranges.

Kate Pitcher -> All Participants: And, during FY2021, we added 1 library to the FDLP and had 3 libraries drop from the program.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Thanks, Kate!

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: what a wimpy excuse. Shame on ALA

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: It's really bad among academic law libraries as well.

Deb Ahlers -> All Participants: Some institutions in higher ed are having enrollment issues and can't offer higher salaries.

Rick Mikulski -> All Participants: +1000 on salary posting. I was told by ALA council members that universities said it was against privacy policies to post employee salaries

Kris Abery -> All Participants: Agree with Deb. We're seeing that in CT

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Before I take significant amount of time to apply, you should tell me if I'm applying for a job that pays \$20k less than my current one.

Debora Jarrell -> All Participants: Seeing that in Delaware too

Kate Pitcher -> All Participants: Additionally, during FY2021, we had conversations with 10 libraries who decided to remain in the FDLP

Rick Mikulski -> All Participants: I also think LIS students and potential students should see salaries before they commit 2+ years and \$x0,000 for grad school

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: @Rick, if they are public universities, then it is public information. Most states will post the salary information not tied to individual names. Glassdoor does that.

Debora Jarrell -> All Participants: In our library, they are down to 5 people from 15 people

Kris Abery -> All Participants: Some administrators think if everything is online why be a depository?

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Thanks everyone, that was a lot of data to wade through!

Debora Jarrell -> All Participants: our Depository person wore 4 hats

Debora Jarrell -> All Participants: thanks!

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: @Debora, I do too basically. I'm the library catch-all.

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: Debora - If I stop to count I might be wearing 4. Which is why I'm not going to stop to count.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: @Kate exactly!

Deb Ahlers -> All Participants: Agree with Kris on why be a depository it's available online.

Mike Kiel -> All Participants: I don't actually find having coordinator being PART of my job as a difficulty, but we planned for that and changed how we participated to make it work

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: For me, I'm hearing it at times from admin, but also I have the question myself as we go all-digital.

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: A depository is more than just the collection; you have to look at the expertise and the services including what GPO provides. Sell your administration on that.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: It's going to be a very tough sale.

Deb Ahlers -> All Participants: Yes, question being a depository if it becomes freely available online.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: *sell

Kris Abery -> All Participants: Agree Charlie

Debora Jarrell -> All Participants: We probably won't go all digital because of the idea if it's all digital why keep it

David Walls -> All Participants: Perhaps we need a project to bust the myth that everthhing is online.

Kris Abery -> All Participants: we need talking points for Benefits of Being an Online depository ... like we have for print

Susanne Caro -> All Participants: Free online doesn't mean findable, our expertise is important

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: Yes, @ David.

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: David: I'm in... :)

Kelly Smith -> All Participants: +1 David

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: +1 Susanne!

Elissa Lawrence -> All Participants: +1 David

Kris Abery -> All Participants: +1 David

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: I'd love to see a certification series in govinfo research, similar to what Westlaw and Lexis offer to law students. They stick it on their LinkedIn with pride.

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: Charlie - i love that idea!

Mike Kiel -> All Participants: thats an excellent idea!

Debora Jarrell -> All Participants: Charlie, that needs to be for all academic libraries too.

Kris Abery -> All Participants: Are there any updated stats on the percentage of gov docs on say HalthiTrust, Internet Archive etc.

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Yes, please

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: Debora - I think the certification might focus on different things for law & other students but. yest!

Monica Dorame -> All Participants: +1 Charlie

Rick Mikulski -> All Participants: +1 Charlie

Barbara Darrow -> All Participants: If we don't have librarians to assist in finding the digital Federal information people will try to use Google to find the info and find the wrong answers to their questions.

Susanne Caro -> All Participants: Fed reserve St Louis also has a online class w/ badges

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: Charlie - let's talk offline about a certification. I wonder if GDsis would be a good avenue.

Elissa Lawrence -> All Participants: @ Susanne I did that one a few months ago and I did feel really special! :) lol

Debora Jarrell -> All Participants: Maybe partner with Library Juice for a program

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Kate, sounds good. I'd love to see it for any university student, but there can always be levels. For librarians, researchers, students, lawyers, etc.

Kate Irwin-Smiler -> All Participants: if anyone else is interested in talking about certifications, drop me an email: irwinc@wfu.edu

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: And LinkedIn badges are free advertising. Which is why West and Lexis do it.

Jessica Fomalont -> All Participants: As one of the Technical Service Librarians who does the day to day catalog, I really appreciate hearing your feedback and experiences!

Aimee Quinn -> All Participants: @Kate, I'd be interested in helping with certifications

Bernadette Johnson -> All Participants: Thank you!

Jen Kirk -> All Participants: Thank you, Rick! Well led. I appreciate the work of all working group members. Many thanks!

Kate Pitcher -> All Participants: Thanks Rick and DLC working group members!

Charlie (she-her) Amiot -> All Participants: Many thanks!

Lori Driver -> All Participants: Thank you!!

Deb Ahlers -> All Participants: Thanks:)

Roberta Boyd -> All Participants: Thank you! Info was excellent!

Yvonne Williams -> All Participants: Thank you. Enjoyed the session.